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PROJECT EYE

Enabling Youth for Employment

Massachusetts Hospital School, 3 Randolph Street Canton, MA 02021

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PROJECT EYE TRANSITION CENTER

Enabling Youth for Employment

3 Randolph Street • Canton, MA 02021 (617) 828-2440 Ext. 380 • (617) 821-1386

Project EYE received a three-year grant through U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services under the category Special Project and Demonstrations for Providing Vocational Rehabilitation Services to Severely Disabled Students.

This grant consists of providing vocational evaluation and situational assessment, career counseling and guidance, community and campus on-the-job training, job placement and work adjustment counseling, and follow-up services in cooperation with the employer and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, the designated adult service agency. The grant will focus on developing jobs that require little or no motor control.

The target population will include 24 residential and 12 outpatient students whose disabilities result in severe motor control problems. These students with neuro-muscular disabilities include cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy.

Our philosophy is to provide a progressive vocational program which is focused on teaching marketable employment skills and providing community transitioning opportunities for individuals with multiple physical disabilities. Project EYE Transition Center will:

--Indoctrinate the belief and attitude that each individual can make a contribution to society.

--Provide experiential learning in new environments.

--Build confidence and self-esteem through real experiences.

--Expect each individual to accept responsibility for his/her decisions and actions.

--Encourage informed decision-making and support risk-taking in real-life situations.

--Expect maximum potential for self-determination according to each individual's desires, goals and resources.

The intent of the grant is to develop a comprehensive vocational rehabilitation plan. An integral part of this plan will include the integration of an individual transitional plan required by Massachusetts new Chapter 688 "Turning 22 Law." This Chapter 688 law states that any special needs student eligible for Chapter 766 services is automatically eligible for a 688 referral. This referral is made two years prior to graduation (age 19) and establishes the residential, day, vocational and transportation services that individuals will need after their 766 entitleness has expired (age 22). This lead time of two years is particularly important because of the level of complexity and severity of the student's disability.

Enable, Inc.

A provider of health, education and social services. 3 Randolph Street, Canton, MA 02021 (617) 828-4770, 828-7719

ABSTRACT

Enable, Inc., a non-profit organization, is applying for monies for Project Eye (Enabling Youth For Employment), which is the vocational component of the educational program at Massachusetts Hospital School, a hospital school for 146 multiply handicapped children and adolescents between the ages of 8 - 22.

Project Eye is applying for a three-year grant through U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services under the category Special Project and Demonstrations for Providing Vocational Rehabilitation Services to Severely Disabled Students.

This grant will consist of providing vocational evaluation, occupational and career exploration, job development, job placement, job site training/advocacy, on-going assessment, job retention/follow up and product dissemination in cooperation with the employer and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, the designated adult service agency. The grant will focus on developing jobs that require little or no motor control.

The target population will include 24 residential and 12 outpatient students whose disabilities result in severe motor control problems. These students with neuromuscular disabilities include cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy.

The intent of the grant is to develop a comprehensive vocational rehabilitation plan. An integral part of this plan will include the integration of an individual transitional plan required by Massachusetts new Chapter 688 "Turning 22 Law." This Chapter 688 law states that any special needs student eligible for Chapter 766 services is automatically eligible for a 688 referral. This referral is made two years prior to graduation (age 19) and establishes the residential, day, vocational and transportation services that individuals will need after their 766 entitleness has expired (age 22). This lead time of two years is particularly important because of the level of complexity and severity of the student's disability.

Therefore, this grant will facilitate the development of a realistic transitional plan for the young adult, by working cooperatively and collaboratively with Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and designated 688 coordinators.

The grant will be administered through Enable, Inc., non-profit partner, and will be a coordinated effort of Massachusetts Hospital School education and outpatient personnel. A Project Director will be hired who will supervise all personnel. The Project Director will report to the Executive Director of Enable, as the grantee, and collaborate with the Principal and Outpatient Administrator.

The majority of the $136,000 request for the first year are for the following positions: Project Director, Job Specialist, Rehabilitation Counselor, Vocational Evaluator, Secretary and two drivers. Massachusetts Hospital School will donate space, equipment and personnel to the project.

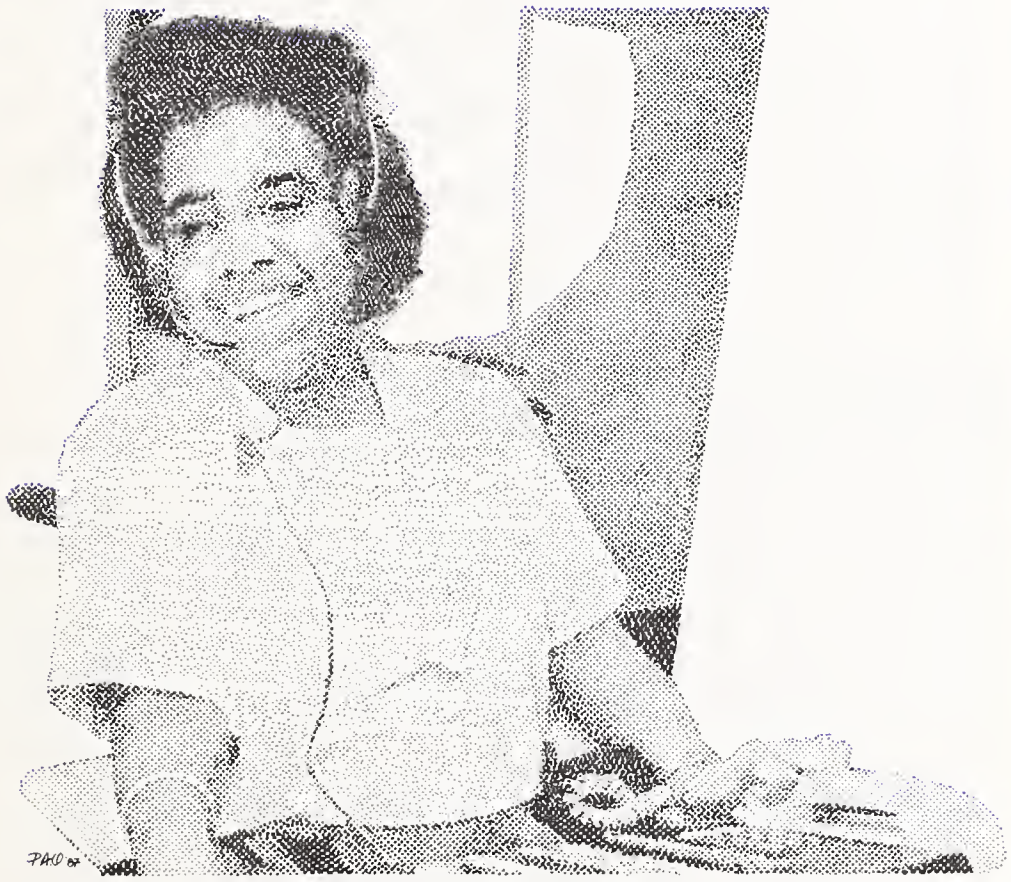
It is anticipated that the development of this training and employment model would serve as a national model.

Programs

Cole-Harrington Children's Center
Baylies Beginning Center
Gaebler After School Program
Community Resource Center
Student Independent Living Experience
Early Beginning Center
Caring Circle
Pathways For Children

PROJECT EYE TRANSITION CENTER

Enabling Youth for Employment



3 Randolph Street ▪ Canton, MA 02021

"Our goal is to provide a progressive vocaion marketable employment skills and provide for the severely physically

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Project Eye has been offering vocational services to the physically disabled young adult who has been accepted to the Massachusetts Hospital School. Students have received progressive vocational services enabling them to pursue competitive employment in their community. There is a realization that additional services are needed to successfully transition a severely disabled individual from school to community based employment.

PROJECT EYE TRANSITION CENTER

A transition center has been developed to offer additional vocational services to the severely physically challenged young adult. These services include several phases:

- **Referral and Intake Process**
- **Formal Vocational Assessment**
- **Extended Evaluation (Situational Assessment)**
- **Transition Phase to Community Training**
- **Supported Work and Employment**
- **Follow-up Services**

onal program which is focused on teaching de community transitional opportunities ly disabled young adult."

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The Individual must be between the ages of 19 – 30
- Have a diagnosis of severe physical disability which results in mobility impairment
- Demonstrates sufficient cognitive abilities and motivation to participate in an intensive program
- Displays appropriate work attitude and behavior
- Completed previous vocational programming which resulted in basic awareness of realistic interests, skills, abilities and work values

Those individuals ages 19 – 22 must meet these additional requirements:

- A Chapter 688 referral is in process with an individual transition plan available
- The ITP establishes vocational programming as a priority
- A lead adult service agency has been identified and agrees to work with the Transition Center towards the individual's vocational goals

FEES

Services will be provided to individuals who conform to the eligibility criteria as specified in the Federal grant.

A fee for service structure will be developed for different phases of the project in accordance with the Massachusetts Rate Setting Commission.

Individuals, agencies, and organizations may purchase a portion or all of the services.

REFERRAL PROCESS

Referrals can be made by the individual, the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission or other health and educational facilities.

Please call or write:

PROJECT EYE TRANSITION CENTER
3 Randolph Street
Canton, MA 02021
(617) 828-2440 - Ext. 380 ▪ (617) 821-1386

ENABLE, INC.

Enable, Inc. is a non-profit corporation which provides health, education and social services. This organization has been awarded a three year grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) under the category Special Project and Demonstrations for Providing Vocational Rehabilitation Services to Severely Disabled Students.

The grant is a demonstration project, and its intent is to establish cooperation among concerned agencies who are involved in providing vocational training services for the severely disabled individual.

THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

"The partnership with Project EYE *has added a substantial contribution to our company. We are pleased with the trainees who have been well prepared as responsible employees through this school program."*

LOCAL EMPLOYER

"Through the vocational program I experienced a change of attitude as well as an increase in my self awareness and knowledge of my potential as a productive member in the world of work."

STUDENT

"The idea that our children are expected to participate and perform according to their potential in a work environment and are given the training to do so is encouraging for their future."

PARENT

"We're very excited about the success of our vocational program and are actively seeking opportunities for further expansion within the community."

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

"Our philosophy is to provide a progressive vocational program which is focused on teaching marketable employment skills and providing community transitioning opportunities for the student at Massachusetts Hospital School."

PROJECT EYE STAFF

PROJECT EYE Enabling Youth For Employment

Each year approximately 20,000 to 30,000 severely handicapped students leave Public Special Education Programs. Joblessness of disabled persons is established to be between 50% and 75%.

GOAL: The multiply physically handicapped student has individual needs as well as special skills, abilities and interests. The goal of ***Project* EYE**, *Enabling Youth for Employment,* at the Massachusetts Hospital School is to provide vocational awareness and training within an educational framework.

OBJECTIVE: Students ages fourteen to twenty-two enter the program where they are assessed and trained for potential future employment. The objective is to help each student become aware of, adjust to and develop confidence in the world of work.

The following progression of programs are offered through ***Project* EYE**.

SKILLS ASSESSMENT

This program is designed to evaluate the multiply physically disabled student in regards to his/her vocational potential. Included in this overall evaluation is a situational assessment, a computerized interest test and occupational counseling. Results of the assessment are reported to the student, the parents or guardian and other appropriate persons involved with the individual educational plan of the student. The Skills Assessment is updated yearly to determine progress and placement within ***Project* EYE**. During discharge preparation from MHS a full vocational progress report is forwarded to the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission for further consideration.

VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING and CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYMENT

A structured behavior modification environment is created which emphasizes work relationships and job responsibilities. This program teaches appropriate work behavior and assesses the production levels of the students. The staff at ***Project* EYE** work closely with the classroom teacher in developing and implementing a vocationally oriented curriculum.

SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT

WORK ALLOWANCE

This program allows students the opportunity to participate in part time On the Job Training (OJT) at various worksites located throughout the campus during the school day. The students learn first hand, their responsibilities as an employee. Supervision is a shared responsibility by the on site supervisior and the ***Project* EYE** coordinator.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Full time paid employment is available for interested and eligible students to apply for. ***Project* EYE** in collaboration with community funding agencies allows the students to earn wages as they participate in this intensive program. Students are supervised directly at the various worksites on campus as well as in the community. ***Project* EYE** staff provides consultation with support for the student/employee and the employer.

WORK EXPERIENCE

This program provides part time paid employment in the community to eligible students during the academic year. Students are still involved with an individualized academic and vocational curriculum at this time. The ***Project* EYE** coordinator works closely with local industries in selectively matching students with the appropriate job position. Employers will be provided with a "pre-screened" and qualified student/employee who will contribute to the work setting.

JOB PLACEMENT

Students that have successfully completed the ***Project* EYE** program will have acquired the following necessary prerequisite skills for potential employment.

- work ethic–appropriate work behavior and attitude
- realistic understanding of the working world
- self awareness and knowledge of potential as an employee
- marketable skills in job seeking, resume writing, application format and interviewing skills
- securing and maintaining a job

During the discharge process recommendations are made by ***Project* EYE** related to the performance and future goals of the student. ***Project* EYE** acts as a liaison between individual service providers and the student. This type of follow through is essential for future employment opportunities of the student in his/her residential area.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

PARTNERSHIP WITH EMPLOYERS

UNIQUE BENEFITS WE PROVIDE

- Pre-Screening process
- Selective Placement and Job Matching
- Support Services for Employers
- Consultations on Job Accomodations and Work Adjustment
- Orientation about Disabilities for company staff
- Linkage with other company and agency partnerships

WHAT CAN YOU PROVIDE?

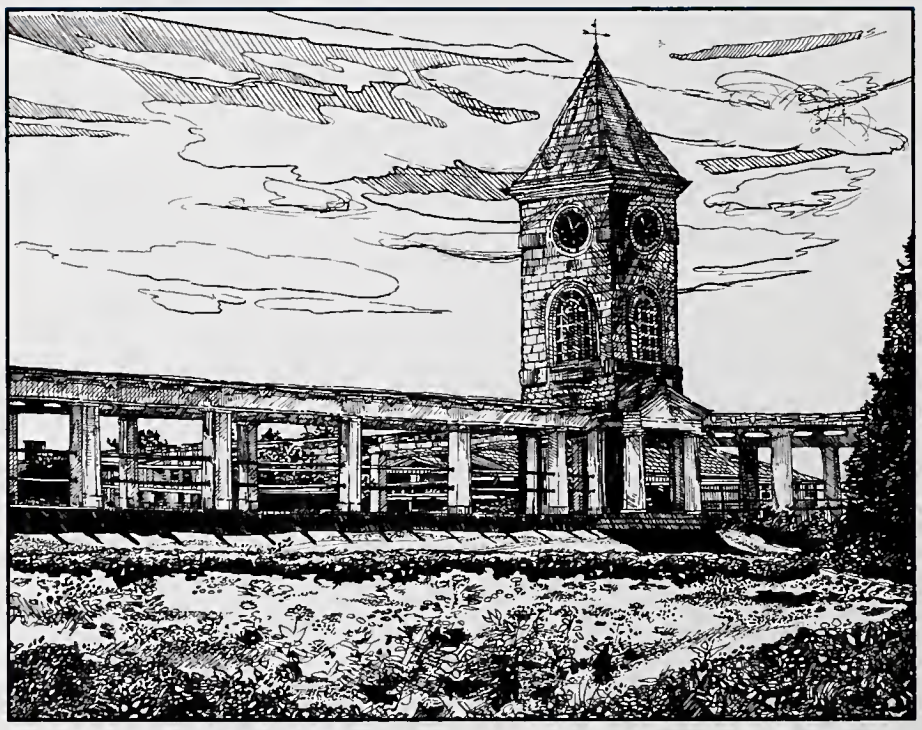
- Job Opportunities
- Expertise about the World of Work
- Supporting Vocational Education
- Help train future employees
- Linkage of education and industry

We welcome your partnership in this vocational endeavor to provide training for the multiply physically disabled. For further information please call or write:

PROJECT EYE

Massachusetts Hospital School

3 Randolph Street, Canton, Massachusetts 02021



Tel. (617) 828-2440 ext. [redacted] 377

DEPT. OF EDUCATION, B.I.S.,
SPONSORS PROJECT EYE

Project **EYE**, ***E**nabling **Y**outh for **E**mployment, is a nonprofit vocational program of Brayton High School at the Massachusetts Hospital School. This program is funded by Enable, Inc., a nonprofit corporation dedicated to meeting the medical and educational needs of individuals with disabling handicaps.*

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